Shin-Cooper

**Social Science Current Events**

**Assignment Overview**

Current events are such a large component of this class. We have covered many news topics 1st semester. However, now it is your turn to study your own current events.

1. Hand in a typed paper explaining your article. It must be written in complete sentences.
2. Staple the actual article and grading rubric to the paper. This may be the article or a Xeroxed copy of it.
3. Turn in a PowerPoint at least the Wednesday before it is due on a flash drive. You may turn it in earlier if you wish.

**The Article**

* Find an article that is at least 8 paragraphs long and related to a major issue we learned about or are currently studying in class.
  + Newspapers: Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun Times, New York Times
  + Magazines: National Geographic, Times Magazine, US News and Report, Newsweek
* The article must be related to national or world news. Local news is not acceptable. Usually, the topics will be about PEGS (politics, economics, geography, sociology or culture).
  + Acceptable: Congolese leader on trial for possible child soldier recruitment
  + Unacceptable: Woman in California gives birth to octuplets
* Pick an article that interests you and that you can be an expert on. You will present the material to the entire class. As a result, you have to be knowledgeable and prepared. This may require extra research!

**Writing the Paper**

Please type out these questions and attach the article to this paper. Writing the paper will help you create an organized PowerPoint. You must hand this in the day of your PowerPoint presentation.

* Basic information
  + Title, author, source, date
* Prediction
  + What do you think the article is about?
    - Include at least three topics
* Questions/Reactions
  + Identify information you do not understand
    - Include at least three topics (terms, places, sentences, names)
  + Write at least two questions that you still have
  + What reactions do you have as you read the article (wonder, excitement, confusion, frustration, anger, sadness, happiness, etc.)
* Making Connections
  + What did you learn?
    - Include at least three topics
  + What surprised you?
  + How does the article relate to you?
  + How does the article relate to the world?

**Helpful Hints**

* Pick an article you genuinely care about
* If you get confused, **ask for help**! Or, try to do the following:
  + Backtrack
  + Reread
  + Rephrase
  + Use the context in the rest of the paragraph for clues
* Take notes while others are presenting. You will need these notes to help you on the Current Events Quiz!

**Current Events Quiz**

* In addition to providing a current event, you also will be taking a Current Events Quiz. There will be at least four quizzes total.
* You may use your notes on these quizzes. However, *the quizzes will not be announced*. So, you have to be sure to bring your materials every day to class and pay attention when your classmates are giving their presentations.
* The quizzes will range anywhere from 10 – 25 points. They will mostly be fill-in-the-blank questions.

Shin-Cooper Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Events Grading Rubric**

*Please staple this sheet to your paper and article*

**The PowerPoint**

Slide One- Your name, period, title of article, author of article, source, and date article is published (*5 points*)

Slide Two- Explain what you ALREADY KNEW ABOUT THE TOPIC BEFORE YOU READ IT. At least three statements (*5 points*)

Slide Three- Explain what you LEARNED from reading the article. At least three statements (*5 points*)

Slide Four- Explain how the article RELATES TO YOUR LIFE. At least two statements (*5 points*)

Slide Five- Explain how the article RELATES TO THE WORLD. At least two statements (*5 points*)

**The Presentation**

Your presentation was WELL REHEARSED, ORGANIZED, and CLEARLY understood (there was very little reading from the PowerPoint or notes- *15 points*)

Your presentation was PASSIONATE, ENTHUSIASTIC, and ENTERTAINING (*5 points*)

The PowerPoint slides had SIMPLE BULLET POINTS instead of long sentences (*5 points*)

Free of GRAMMAR and SPELLING ERRORS (*5 points*)

Pictures on the slides were VISUALLY STIMULATING and CLARIFYING (*5 points*)

**The Paper**

TYPED QUESTIONS and RESPONSES TURNED IN ON THE DAY OF PRESENTATION (*15 points*)

Total Points = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (70 POINTS)